

Bible Stories for Adults

Jesus Heals Blind Bartimaeus

Luke 18:35-43

Opening

Gathering: How do people react when they see someone else's faith in action?

Today's Focus: Bartimaeus demonstrated faith in Jesus and was healed.

Key Verses: *He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"* Luke 18:38

They called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you." Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus. Mark 10:49-50

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Popular Jesus (*Mark 10:1*)

How popular had Jesus become after 3 years of preaching, teaching, healing and miracles?

Mark 10:1 = Crowds followed Him wherever He went. He taught them.

Did Jesus ever have trouble getting away by Himself?

Mark 7:24-26 = People found Him even when He tried to hide, even outside Jewish regions

Did Jesus get upset when people interrupted His attempts at privacy? = Feeding the 5000

Mark 6:27, 30-34 = Went away after John's death, had compassion on waiting crowd

How far did His compassion extend for the "faceless" crowds?

Mark 8:1-9a = Fed 4000 with 7 loaves because of compassion

How did Jesus view the people in the crowds?

Mark 3:32-35 = As His close family (brothers and mother)

Attractions

What were some of the reasons people flocked to Jesus? = Get answers from class before reading

Mark 9:15 = Curiosity - *they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet Him*

Mark 8:11 = To see a miracle

Mark 4:1-2 = To listen to Him and learn

Mark 10:17 = Wanted answers to serious questions

Mark 10:13, 16 = To get blessings for them and their loved ones

Mark 7:32 = To get healing for themselves and their loved ones

Trying to Get to Jesus

How assertively did people try to get healing from Jesus? = Get answers from class before reading

Mark 1:40 = They begged Him, even on their knees

Mark 2:1-4 = Broke a hole through a roof and lowered a paralyzed friend through it

Mark 3:9-10 = They pushed forward so much He needed a boat

Mark 5:24-29 = Woman believed she'd be healed if she just touched His cloak, did so secretly

Mark 6:54-56 = *Carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard He was*

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The Messiah Who Heals (*Matthew 11:2-5*)

Didn't these miracles of healing interfere with Jesus' mission to call people to saving faith?
Mark 5:18-20 = The healed were brought to saving faith and word of Jesus spread
How did Jesus use His healing ministry as a sign of who He was? = poor hear good news
Matthew 11:2-5 = The blind see, lame walk, lepers cured, deaf hear, dead raised
How would the disciples of John the Baptist understand from this who Jesus was?
Isaiah 35:5-6a = Messianic prophesy: blind see, deaf hear, lame leap, mute shout
Isaiah 26:19 = *Your dead will live, their bodies will rise*
Isaiah 61:1 = *Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor*

Outside Jericho (*Luke 18:35*)

Who gave Jesus His last chance for a healing miracle before His final entry into Jerusalem?
Luke 18:35 = A blind man was begging by the road outside Jericho
How does this appear to conflict with the story in Matthew and Mark?
Matthew 20:29 = Matthew and Mark say they were leaving Jericho, Luke says coming to

Jericho - A tropical oasis called "The City of Palms" (Deuteronomy 34:3; Judges 3:13)
800 ft below sea level, 5 miles west of Jordan River, 8 miles from where Jordan hits Dead Sea
Jericho is one of the oldest inhabited cities in the world; Three different Jerichos
Old Testament Jericho - Destroyed by God (Joshua 6), Rebuilt under King Ahab (faithless)
Joshua 6:26 = Joshua proclaimed curse over anyone who dared to rebuild Jericho
1 Kings 16:34 = Hiel rebuilt Jericho at costs of first and youngest sons
New Testament Jericho - Built by King Herod for a winter palace; a mile south of OT Jericho
Modern Jericho - Called er-Riha today; About a mile east of New Testament Jericho
Matthew and Mark (Jews) saw Jesus leaving Old Testament Jericho
Luke (Greek) saw Jesus approaching New Testament Jericho

Blind Bartimaeus (*Luke 18:36-37*)

What does Mark tell us about the blind man that Luke said was sitting by the roadside?
Mark 10:46 = He was called Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus)
Was Bartimaeus sitting by himself?
Matthew 20:30 = No, he had a blind friend with him
Since he was blind, how did he know Jesus was walking by?
Luke 18:36-37 = Heard the crowd going by, asked about it, was told it was Jesus

Bartimaeus' Perfect Vision (*Luke 18:38*)

How did he call to Jesus that showed that he recognized Jesus as the Messiah?
Luke 18:38 = He heard it was Jesus of Nazareth; called Him Jesus, Son of David
What does calling Jesus a descendant of David have to do with calling Him the Messiah?
Jeremiah 33:14-16 = Son of David was a title for Messiah - *raise a righteous Branch to David*
How did this call show that Bartimaeus was one of few who could really see?
Matthew 13:11-17 = Only Jesus' chosen can see the secrets of His kingdom
Why is it important for us to call on Jesus' name like Bartimaeus did?
Acts 4:12 = *There is no other name under heaven given to man by which we must be saved.*
Who are the real blind?
Revelation 3:17 = Those who feel they have no need for Jesus' help

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Bartimaeus' Need and Persistence (*Mark 10:47; Luke 18:39*)

For what did Bartimaeus ask?

Mark 10:47 = For Jesus to have mercy on him

For what are we to ask? = Kyrie is Greek for *Lord, have mercy*

Psalm 30:10 = Mercy - Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy

Why do we need God's mercy?

Luke 18:13 = Because we deserve only death and punishment as sinners

Grace is getting what we don't deserve. Mercy is not getting what we do deserve.

How seriously did Bartimaeus desire the Savior's mercy?

Luke 18:39 = He just hollered louder when told to be quiet

Why was Bartimaeus so persistent with his request?

Matthew 20:29 = It was his one and only chance to be healed by Jesus (leaving)

Our Persistence (*Luke 18:1-8*)

What parable did Jesus give to show we should be persistent with our requests to God?

Luke 18:1-5 = The widow who persistently asked an unjust judge for justice

What promise does Jesus make when we pray persistently?

Luke 18:6-8 = God will answer our prayers, and quickly (God's time)

Do we have to pray persistently for God to answer?

Mark 11:24 = No, just have faith and believe

Do we have to pray persistently to get God's attention? = God is always ready to listen

Luke 11:9-10 = Ask and it will be given, seek and find, knock and door opened

So why did Jesus teach us to be persistent? = He will give us whatever we ask for in His Will

John 14:12-14 = To give us time to bring ourselves closer to Him

Bartimaeus Answers Jesus' Call (*Luke 18:40*)

Did Jesus hear Bartimaeus' pleas above the noise of the crowd?

Mark 10:49 = Yes, He stopped and directed all of His attention to Bartimaeus

Why did Jesus stop and call for Bartimaeus instead of going to him?

Luke 9:59-62 = He gave Bartimaeus the opportunity to respond to His call in faith

What does Jesus promise to those who hear His call and answer?

Revelation 3:20 = *If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in*

How did Bartimaeus answer Jesus' call? = Got rid of possible obstacle to reaching Jesus

Mark 10:50 = He threw his cloak aside, jumped to his feet and came to Jesus

Leaving Things Behind (*Mark 10:50*)

What other examples does the Bible give of people leaving things to come to Christ?

John 4:7, 28-29 = Samaritan woman left her water jar to tell others about Jesus

Matthew 9:9 = Matthew left his tax collector's booth and lucrative tax collection business

Mark 1:16-20 = Simon (Peter), Andrew, James and John left their boats, nets and business

Acts 9:15-16 = Paul left good, respected Pharisee life to suffer and teach Gentiles

What did Jesus say about those who are called but refuse to leave things to follow Him?

Luke 14:16-24 = They will not taste of His banquet

What does Jesus promise to those who leave the things of the world for Him?

Mark 10:28-30 = 100-fold blessings on earth and eternal life in heaven

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Jesus Offers (*Mark 10:51*)

What did Jesus ask Bartimaeus when he came to Him?

Mark 10:51 = *What do you want me to do for you?*

Did Jesus have to ask this question?

Matthew 6:8 = No, He *knows what you need before you ask Him*

Why did Jesus ask it? = He wants us to ask

Philippians 4:6-7 = *Present your requests to God to receive His peace*

Jesus Heals (*Luke 18:41-42*)

For what did Bartimaeus ask?

Luke 18:41 = To be able to see

How did Jesus give Bartimaeus his sight?

Luke 18:42 = He spoke to him

Didn't Jesus have to do something more than just speak?

Genesis 1:3 = *And God said ... All of creation was made by God speaking*

John 1:1-3 = Jesus is The Word, *Through Him all things were made*

Saving Faith (*Luke 18:43*)

What saved Bartimaeus from his blindness?

Mark 10:52 = His faith

What saves us from our blindness?

1 Peter 2:9-10 = Jesus has called us out of our darkness and given us His mercy

John 8:12 = Jesus is the light of the world and gives us the light of life

John 3:19, 21 = Whoever believes (has faith) comes into the light

How did Bartimaeus respond to his healed vision?

Luke 18:43 = He followed Jesus, praised God, led others to praise God

Closing Prayer

Response - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. When have I really recognized my need for God's mercy?
(*Luke 18:38-39; Psalm 28:6; 57:1; Proverbs 28:13; Daniel 9:9; Micah 6:8; 7:18; Matthew 5:7; Luke 1:50; 6:36; 18:13; Hebrews 4:16; 1 Peter 1:3; 2:10*)
2. How persistently do I pray?
(*Luke 18:1-8, 38-39; 11:1-13; Isaiah 40:31; Acts 1:14; Ephesians 6:18; Colossians 4:2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17*)
3. What have I left for the sake of Christ?
(*Mark 10:50; Luke 5:1-11, 27-28; 9:23-25, 57-62; 14:16-27; 18:28-30*)
4. What have I been able to see and understand as a result of being a disciple of Jesus?
(*Luke 18:41-43; John 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 8:12; 9:1-5, 24-27; 12:37-46; 14:26; 17:6; Romans 16:25-26; 1 Corinthians 2:6-10*)
5. When has my faith led others to praise God?
(*Luke 18:43; Matthew 5:14-16; 9:1-8; 15:30-31; John 15:8; Acts 4:18-21; 11:18; 21:17-20a*)